

Submission on the referral

Department of Defence – HMAS Coonawarra Dredging and Dredged Materials Management

This submission is made under regulation 53 of the Environment Protection Regulations 2020

Government authority: Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade

Summary: The following divisions within DITT have provided a response to the referral:

- Mineral Titles have advised that there are no issues from their perspective with this referral
- Petroleum Titles have advised that the area set aside for dredging is covered by a Petroleum Reserved Block (RB51, under s9 of the *Petroleum Act 1984*). The reserved block prevents the application for or grant of an exploration permit or licence under the *Petroleum Act 1984*. In addition, a reserved block under s6 of *Geothermal Energy Act 2009* (GRO1) partially overlaps the area. The reserved block prevents the application or grant of an exploration permit or licence under the *Geothermal Energy Act 2009*. Overall, the dredging proposal has no impact from an Energy Titles perspective.
- Fisheries have provided the following comment: “*Ensuring robust management of the dredge plume is the main concern from Fisheries’ perspective. Presumably EPA are comfortable with the location of monitoring sites and trigger levels set*”.

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Government authority: Tourism NT, Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade

Summary: It is recommended that the proponent engage with Tourism Top End, local tourism businesses and recreational/guided fishers to provide information regarding project timing and expected impacts to water quality.

| Section of Referral | Theme or issue | Comment |
|--|------------------------|---|
| People and human health (p. xix) 4.6 Consultation | Stakeholder engagement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proponent references impacts to water quality, including “This may have some effect on the recreational uses of the water including viewing, and water sports which are all popular activities within some parts of the project area.” The proponent also refers to the fish feeding tourism business neighbouring the project area. The proponents list of Stakeholders does not yet include any tourism operators. Given the potential impacts to water quality during dredging it is recommended that the proponent engage with the Regional Tourism Organisation – Tourism Top End, recreational/guided fishers and tourism operators in the area including: Amateur Fishermen’s Association of the Northern Territory (AFANT), Northern Territory Guided Fishing Industry Association (NTGFIA), Aquascene Doctors Gully (fish feeding) and 00Seven Jetski Adventures. |